

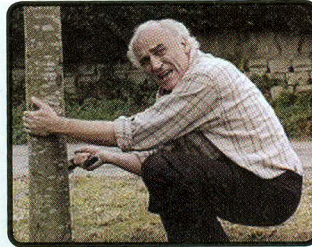


**INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES** WB, LM, SAM Answer Key, Lab MP3, IRCD-ROM (scripts)

4.3

## Por and para

- **Por** and **para** are both translated as *for*, but they are not interchangeable.



—¿No ve que le he dado un tajo **por** la mitad?

—Pues **para** aprovechar la madera es mejor cuando esté seca.

### Uses of **para**

#### Destination

(toward, in the direction of)

Pedro sale **para** Italia pronto.

*Pedro is leaving for Italy soon.*

#### Deadline or a specific time in the future

(by, for)

El árbol debe estar derribado **para** mañana.

*The tree should be taken down by tomorrow.*

#### Purpose or goal + [infinitive]

(in order to)

Arcadio tiene varias herramientas **para** cortar el árbol.

*Arcadio has several tools in order to chop down the tree.*

#### Purpose + [noun]

(for, used for)

Clara compró la comida **para** la semana.

*Clara bought food for the week.*

#### Recipient

(for)

Clara preparó la habitación **para** Pedro.

*Clara prepared the room for Pedro.*

#### Comparison with others or opinion

(for, considering)

**Para** ser tan joven, Pedro ha viajado mucho.

*For being so young, Pedro has traveled a lot.*

**Para** Clara, quitar el árbol es una tontería.

*For Clara, taking down the tree is foolish.*

#### Employment

(for)

Pedro trabaja **para** una empresa internacional.

*Pedro works for an international company.*

### Expressions with **para**

**no estar para bromas** *to be in no mood for jokes*

**no ser para tanto** *to not be so important*

**para colmo** *to top it all off*

**para que sepas** *just so you know*

**para siempre** *forever*

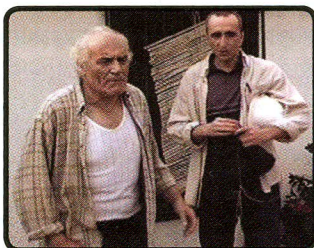
Remind students that prepositions are often the most challenging part of learning a second language.

Explain that **para** is often used with adverbs to indicate "in the direction of."

Ex: **para arriba** *upwards*  
**para atrás** *backwards*

**VARIACIÓN LÉXICA** Point out that in some regions, including the Caribbean, the second syllable of **para** is often dropped from spoken Spanish.  
Ex: **pa'riba**, **pa'bajo**

Additional expressions with **para**:  
**para que** *so that*  
**¿para qué?** *why? what for?*



—**Por** unos días su hijo podía haber dejado su coche ahí.

—Tendré que seguir con la faena si quiero quitar toda esa raíz **para** mañana.

### Uses of **por**

**Motion or a general location**  
(along, through, around, by)

El vecino pasó **por** la calle y lo saludó.  
*The neighbor passed by the street and greeted him.*

**Duration of an action**  
(for, during, in)

Pedro quiere quedarse **por** una semana.  
*Pedro wants to stay for a week.*

**Reason or motive for an action**  
(because of, on account of, on behalf of)

Quitó el árbol **por** su hijo.  
*He took the tree down because of his son.*

**Object of a search**  
(for, in search of)

Arcadio fue **por** el serrucho.  
*Arcadio went in search of the saw.*

**Means by which**  
(by, by way of, by means of)

Su hijo les llamó **por** teléfono.  
*Their son called them by phone.*

**Exchange or substitution**  
(for, in exchange for)

Cambió el árbol grande **por** uno pequeño.  
*He replaced the big tree for a smaller one.*

**Unit of measure**  
(per, by)

El coche de Pedro puede ir a 150 km **por** hora.  
*Pedro's car can get up to 150 km per hour.*

**Agent (passive voice)**  
(by)

Los parquímetros fueron puestos **por** el ayuntamiento.  
*The parking meters were placed by the local government.*

### Expressions with **por**

**por allí/aquí** around there/here

**por casualidad** by chance/accident

**por ejemplo** for example

**por eso** therefore, for that reason

**por fin** finally

**por lo general** in general

**por lo menos** at least

**por lo tanto** therefore

**por lo visto** apparently

**por más/mucho que** no matter how much

**por otro lado/otra parte** on the other hand

**por primera vez** for the first time

**por si acaso** just in case

**por supuesto** of course

### ¡ATENCIÓN!

In many cases it is grammatically correct to use either **por** or **para** in a sentence. The meaning of each sentence, however, is different.

**Trabajó por su tío.**

*He worked for (in place of) his uncle.*

**Trabajó para su tío.**

*He worked for his uncle('s company).*

### TALLER DE CONSULTA

The passive voice is discussed in detail in **10.1, p. 352.**

Additional expressions

with **por**:

**por ahora** for the time being

**por cierto** of course

**¡por Dios!** for God's sake!

**por escrito** in writing